ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Government does not propose to set up any separate organisation for technology assessment under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme. The Indian component of the Joint Working Group, envisaged under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), would also be the apex body for clearance and taking up implementation of the activities under the Vaccine Action Programme. The apex body would be assisted by experts groups of Indian scientists who would constitute peer groups, as may be required, to review the programmes to be taken up under the Vaccine Action Programme.

Denial of Minimum Pension to Military Pensioners

2027. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether para 3 of the Ministry of Defence O.M. No. 2(14)87-PIC dated 5th March, 1987 stipulates payment of a minimum pension of Rs. 375 per month in all cases w.e.f. 1st January, 1986;

(b) whether it is a fact that military pensioners, getting disability pension, have been refused payment of this minimum amount by the DPDO-I Red Fort, Delhi; if so, what remedial step, have been taken and with what results; and

(c) what is the comparative position of similar payments being made by DPDO-II, Red Fort, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL). (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Member presumably refers to the instructions dated 5th March, 1987 issued by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and not by Ministry of Defence. These instructions stipulate that the total amount of pension (superannuation/retiring/invalid/compensation) or family pension, plus the relief thereon upto average Consumer Price Index 608 shall be stepped upto Rs. 375 p.m. The minimum amount of Rs. 375 p.m. will apply after taking into account all elements like service pension, disability pension, *ad-hoc* reliefs sanctioned from time to time, personal pension etc. Subsequently Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions have stipulated by their O.M. dated 16th April, 1987 that where the Disability Pension is drawn in addition to Invalid Pension, the minimum limit of Rs. 375 will apply to total of two pensions and where the Disability Pension is drawn in isolation, the minimum limit of Rs. 375 will apply for 100 per cent disability and for lesser degree of disability, the minimum limit will be proportionately less. Accordingly the DPDO's (Defence Pension Disbursement Office) are not authorising the minimum pension of Rs. 375 to military pensioners in receipt of only disability elements of pension in isolation.

Effect of the New Pension Rules

2028. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether pension (gross amount) of persons retired between January, 1986 and March, 1987 have become less under new Pension Rules than the pension they were getting as fixed on their retirement under old rules; and if not, what are the details thereof;

(b) what remedial steps have been taken and with what results; and

(c) whether such pensioners are being asked to pay back the 'extra amount' which they got since 1st January, 1986 under the old rules, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. To provide relief in such cases a provision has been made in the orders for those who retired between 1st January, 1986 and 30th June, 1987 enabling them to opt for retention of the pre-revised scales of pay and to have their pension and gratuity calculated under

the old rules provided they refund the excess pay and allowances drawn by them as a result of coming over to the revised scales of pay.

Visit by Foreign Dignitaries to India

2029. DR. MOHD HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign dignitaries who visited India during the last three years; and

(b) the number of visits of the Prime Minister and Indian External Affairs Minister to foreign countries during this period along with the names of such countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as available.

International Conferences held in India

2030. DR MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of international conferences held in the country during the last three years along with the names of participating countries;

(b) the total amount of money spent in these conferences.

(c) the number of international conferences attended by India during the period along with the names of such countries where these conferences were held; and

(d) the total expenses of attending these conferences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.

Scientists Serving as Pool Officers

2031 DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) what is the number of scientists serving as Pool Officers, till date;

(b) what is the number of Pool Officers employed during the last three years, and

(c) by when the serving Pool Officers are likely to be employed in all the departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K R. NARAYANAN): (a) 615 persons are on rolls as Pool Officers as on 19-11-1987.

(b) 407 Pool Officers left the pool and secured employment during the last 3 years.

(c) According to past trends, about 80 per cent of the Pool Officers will be able to secure regular employment within three years of their joining the Pool

Lok Adalats in the country

2032 DR MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Lok Adalats held in the country Statewise till date;

(b) the number of cases decided by Lok Adalats till June, 1987; and

(c) the number of cases pending in these Adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes, the number of the Lok Adalats held in the country (Statewise), as on 9-11-87 and the number of cases decided by the Lok Adalats till June, 1987, are as follows:—